

**Golf Commission Meeting  
March 22, 2010  
Minutes**

**Members Present:** Don Espach, Chairman; Owen Evans, Vice-Chairman; Ron Dray; Dave Galla; Bruce Gerstman; Tony Johnson; Jon Turk

**Members Absent:** George Furkiotis; Jim Steidlmayer

Don Espach called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Mr. Espach welcomed the newest Golf Commissioner, Mr. Jonathan Turk.

**Review and approval of the Minutes:**

Review and approval of the Minutes of February 22, 2010 ... There was a motion made by Mr. Gerstman seconded by Mr. Galla to approve the minutes as is. Motion carried unanimously.
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**Audience Participation:**

- None.

**Director of Golf Course Properties Report (Hidalgo Nagashima):**

**Labor:**

- Director of Operations – Golf Course Properties (Hidalgo Nagashima); Mechanic (Rich Plaveck); Four full-time greensmen (Jeff Cook, Jerry Cook, Chris Gallant, Craig Romano)
- Seven part-time greensman (Hoeppner, Markaj, Plumeau, Goodwin, DeFrancisco, Ebert, Shaffer)

**Maintenance Department Outline:**

- The golf course has come out of the winter and heavy rains in good shape. The advance tree work resulted in little damage during recent storms.
- The greens have been mowed once already and will be mowed a second time before opening. As is our usual practice, aeration is scheduled for early next week. Heavy topdressing will follow.
- The turf blankets covering the greens will be removed.

- The maintenance staff is working diligently in an effort to complete the winter work list generated by the Greens Committee.
- The bunker complex on #16 and the drag out area on bunker #12 has been sodded. The area will be roped off until the sod has rooted.
- Irrigation has been fixed on #7 fairway. Another irrigation line has been extended on in the 5<sup>th</sup> fairway to allow for equipment washing closer to the maintenance barn.
- Long Hill is completed six days of tree work. One day of stump grinding has also been completed. Most of the wood is off the course with the exception of #3 Glen, which requires a front-end loader to clear.
- A drainage ditch has been completed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> green to the 3<sup>rd</sup> tee. It is removing water from the cart path to the drainage ditch.
- The 11<sup>th</sup> green has been mowed to height and suffered no significant settling over the winter. Slight undulations will be fixed by aeration and top dressing.
- Drainage projects still to be completed include:
  - Install and extend drainage on right side of #7
  - Install drain on #11 fairway
  - Install drain on #1 fairway Glen

#### **Green Committee (Owen Evans):**

- Mr. Evans wanted to reiterate that the greens committee has been concentrating on drainage. It is expected that both courses will see significant improvements during the season.

#### **Head Professional Report (Jon Janik):**

##### **Golf Operations:**

- The professional staff returned to work on Monday, March 1.
- Outside operations staff will meet on Wednesday, March 24, to begin work for the 2010 season.

##### **Tournaments:**

- Deposits have been received from six organizations to date. Contracts are being negotiated for the remaining organizations.

##### **Pro Shop:**

- The pro shop has been cleaned, painted and prepared for the season.
- New merchandise is arriving daily including:
  - Golf club companies Callaway, Nike, and Ping
  - Apparel companies Adidas, Cutter and Buck, Footjoy, and Nike

##### **Instructional Programs:**

- Adult programs:
  - EWGA – three spring programs
  - Ladies Full Day Golf School – one event per month
  - Adult Clinics – 2-hour swing clinics three days per week
- Junior programs:

- Sign-ups began March 13<sup>th</sup> and have been well-received with some programs full already
- Spring programs include full swing classes, on-course classes, spring camps and leagues.

**General Manager Report (Bobby Brown):**

**Overview:**

- The Knolls course will open this Friday through Sunday for a weekend preview and will close next Monday through Wednesday for aeration. It will open for the season on Thursday, April 1.
- The Glen course will open on Friday and remain open.
- ID sales began March 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Plant & Facility:**

- Gralor Inc. enhanced the women's bathroom by installing tile, new lighting and painting the room. As funds become available, improvements are planned for the men's room as well.
- Golf carts have been detailed and Club Car has performed spring maintenance. Discussions for a new lease will begin in August. We should be in a good position to negotiate a deal due to the fact that the batteries in our existing carts will only be 1-1/2 years old at that point as opposed the five years..
- The pro shop window will be installed this Thursday.
- Fairfield Sprinkler flooded the system and identified three leaks in the system. We are awaiting a quote for repairs, which must be completed.
- Mr. Brown met with the new Director of Public Works, John Marsilio, to discuss some of our projects:
  - The attic insulation bid which is scheduled to be completed this fiscal year
  - Solar lighting for the front entrance
  - The sign at the bottom of Tashua Road
  - The Miklus Indoor Training Center
  - Ways to work together to share costs
- Mr. Brown discussed the issue of the declining number of ash trees due to disease. He suggested that we develop a program to begin replacing some trees when they are removed so that we are not faced with a huge expense in the future. Mr. Nagashima will look into any potential treatments for the ash disease.
- The new scoreboard has been constructed. It still needs to be painted and the area landscaped.
- On Friday night a car was witnessed trespassing on the course on the 1<sup>st</sup> hole on the Knolls. The license plate was reported to the police and an arrest warranted has been issued for the owner of the vehicle.
- Mr. Brown recommended that we install an additional gate prior to the actual course to prohibit events such as the above. Because the parks department is not responsible for the golf course, it would allow us full control over the area. The Commission agreed and Mr. Brown will obtain an estimate for the gate.

**Marketing:**

- An e-blast was sent out regarding course opening.
- Two ads have run in the Trumbull Times

- Assistant pro, Dave Bove, has had two articles published in the Trumbull Times. He has two additional articles for future editions.
- Mr. Brown and Mr. Janik spoke to 135 women at the EWGA spring luncheon.

#### **Marketing:**

- There is a new member to the ATK staff, John Didio, who will be a golf fitness trainer. He will be running clinics and consultations.

#### **House Committee (Tony Johnson):**

- It was determined that the porch ceiling has seven special order sprinkler fittings. A cost to replace those fittings will be obtained. Replacement of the fittings is necessary if we go ahead and vinyl side the ceiling. The NFPA code requires that areas over 4' long require a sprinkler system.
- Mr. Johnson is working with Mr. Brown to determine a laundry list of projects to be worked on at the two maintenance barn buildings. Projects include vinyl siding, window replacement, sheet rocking broken walls, painting, and the remodeling of an area to be used as a break room.

#### **Finance (Dave Galla):**

- There are no major outliers in revenue vs. expenses other than heat and electric, which are over budget until both categories are credited with the reimbursement from Gralor Inc.
- A meeting is scheduled with the Town Council for March 25<sup>th</sup> at approximately 8:30 PM to discuss the budget.

#### **Correspondence:**

- None.

#### **Old Business:**

- All changes have been incorporated into the Rules and Regulations and copies have been made of the document.

#### **New Business:**

- Mr. Brown requested Commission input regarding the idea of implementing a beverage cart at Tashua. A discussion was held among the Commissioners regarding the pros and cons of the issue. Several Commissioners felt that the cart was a distraction to golfers, that training was a big issue, and were strongly opposed to the issue. An equal number of Commissioners felt that the cart is a great idea for Tashua and were strongly in favor of the issue. Mr. Brown will discuss the matter with the Concessionaire who would be responsible for the cart to determine his position on the subject.

- Mr. Brown submitted a letter to the Commission to request partial relief from his contract to provide him with more available golf instruction time to better serve and grow the customer base at Tashua Knolls. Mr. Brown assured the Commission that he clearly understands his role as General Manager and felt he has proven his ability to identify priorities and has demonstrated his ability to manage time effectively.

### **Executive Session**

A motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss a contractual matter was made at 8:23 PM by Mr. Evans; seconded by Gerstman. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:37 PM was made by Mr. Johnson; seconded by Mr. Dray. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Galla, seconded by Mr. Gerstman to have Mr. Espach draft a letter to all Commissioners for review to grant Mr. Brown's request to extend his permissible hours for private or group lessons with certain qualifications. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion to adjourn at 8:45 PM was made by Mr. Evans; seconded by Mr. Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Plumeau  
Golf Commission Clerk